

Construction of O Street to finish by next year

BY TONY MOSES

Parts of O Street in downtown Lincoln should become safer and more colorful this fall because of construction efforts by the city of Lincoln.

The construction is part of a seven-year plan to rebuild the cityscape on O Street between 9th and 16th streets, said Dallas McGee, who works with the City of Lincoln Department of Urban Planning and is managing the project.

The project includes replacing damaged and dead trees, repairing sidewalks and adding trash receptacles, bike racks and pedestrian lighting.

"It will be lighter and safer at night," McGee said.

The last part of the construc-

tion effort will include the addition of plants in the late fall.

The plants will add color to O Street, McGee said.

The city is working on O Street between 14th Street and the Centennial Mall. The project will conclude next year with construction between Centennial Mall and 16th Street.

McGee said he anticipated the current construction efforts to be finished by October.

Until then, O Street will continue to have temporary lane closings, but will be opened for football games, McGee said.

Matt Hilker, an employee at Yiayia's Pizza, said business was unaffected by the construction when it was in front of the restaurant.

"It seems that we were almost busier," Hilker said.

During the construction, the city placed wooden boards between the outside beer garden and the construction, he said.

The construction also allowed Yiayia's Pizza to extend their beer garden by three feet, Hilker said.

Construction lasted four weeks outside of Yiayia's, though the city anticipated it would only take two weeks, Hilker said.

The delay was probably because of the weather, Hilker said. He said he was pleased with the way the city handled the inconvenience.

"They were very accommodating," Hilker said.

Tests on Anasazi artifacts show proof of cannibalism

Traces of human protein were found in experiments on the pots and human bones found in Colorado.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Piles of human bones burned and boiled, smashed and scraped. Cooking pots smeared with blood.

A few years ago, anthropologists in the American Southwest uncovered the grisly remains of what appeared to be an ancient cannibal feast, but they lacked the biological proof - until now.

Laboratory tests on some of the artifacts, including a piece of human excrement, have revealed traces of a human protein that scientists say is the first direct evidence of cannibalism among the Anasazi, whose empire stretched into present-day Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

"This proves they put the meat in their mouths," said Richard Marlar, a molecular biologist at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver who developed the biochemical tests to detect the protein. "If you didn't eat human beings, this protein would not show up."

The excavation site, consisting of three collapsed pit dwellings nicknamed Cowboy Wash near Dolores, Colo., was occupied about 1150 A.D. It was abandoned after seven people were butchered there.

The findings were published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Other anthropologists said the protein evidence is convincing. However, it doesn't explain exactly who committed the cannibalism or why.

Nor does it demonstrate that the Anasazi commonly ate their own, whether for nourishment or in a religious ritual.

"I doubt it was a routine thing at all in the culture of the early pueblo people, any more than it was routine in any other culture," said anthropologist William Lipe of Washington State University.

Among modern-day Indians of the Southwest, leaders of the Hopi, Zuni and other tribes have been especially critical of cannibalism research.

But Terry Knight, a Ute Mountain Ute tribal leader who supervised the excavation, said of the findings: "Like any other civilization, there were good, productive people, and there were bad people."

Knight said he hopes the evidence of cannibalism will force anthropologists to revise their thinking about the Anasazi culture. He said ancient Indian culture is too often treated in simplistic terms when it was in reality complex, with many different tribes.

Cowboy Wash was one of about 10 Anasazi homesteads in the Four Corners region. Today's inhabitants, the Utes, commissioned archaeologists to conduct a scientific survey before installing an irrigation system.

Even without the specter of cannibalism, the Anasazi are a mysterious lost culture. They built an elaborate network of roads and ceremonial centers throughout the Southwest after 700 A.D. that were keenly oriented to the heavens. Severe drought helped to disperse the society by 1300 A.D.

Forty miles east of Cowboy Wash stands Mesa Verde, now an elaborate ghost city.

But most Anasazi lived in hardscrabble settlements, growing corn and hunting game.

The pit dwellings at Cowboy Wash appear to have been heavily used for many years, then suddenly abandoned.

They contained pots, grinding stones, jewelry and other valuables.

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Washington State University anthropologist

In the ruins, researchers also found seven dismembered skeletons in 1994. The bones had been stripped of their flesh, then roasted and cracked for their fatty marrow.

Skulls were scorched and cracked open for their brains. In the center of one cooking hearth was found a coprolite, or piece of dried feces.

The scene suggested a gruesome butchering, but critics complained the evidence was circumstantial. In 1997, Marlar offered to find biochemical proof.

In a series of tests, he determined that both the coprolite and residue on cooking pots contained human myoglobin. It is a protein that picks up oxygen from the bloodstream and carries it into the muscle cells.

Myoglobin is found in flesh, not in most organs or vessels. In mammals, the myoglobin of each species has its own chemical fingerprint.

Marlar failed to find the myoglobin for deer, rabbit and other local game in the same samples.

As a comparison, he did not detect human myoglobin in coprolites and other artifacts found at other Anasazi sites from the same period.

"All we have found from the Cowboy Wash samples is human myoglobin - no other species," Marlar said. "They had a human meat meal."

Checks prepare for Net

The program that will allow students to sign up for senior checks on the Internet is gradually becoming available.

BY GEORGE GREEN

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is trying to make the lives of graduating seniors a little easier.

UNL is gradually implementing a computer program that lets students sign up for a senior check over the Internet, said Earl Hawkey, director of registration and records.

A senior check statement tells seniors which classes they have left to take to graduate, Hawkey said.

UNL purchased the software necessary to run the check program several years ago, said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen.

The program is not yet completely implemented because of the wide variety of majors and options within majors available to students, Hawkey

said.

Putting all of the requirements and codes into the program is time consuming and difficult, Griesen said.

This fall advisers in the College of Business Administration and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources are trying out the program, Hawkey said.

Advisers will use the program when students come to them with questions, he said.

The Teachers College will start using the system in late November or early December, followed by the College of Engineering and Technology and the College of Arts and Sciences, Hawkey said.

"We are still in a shake-out period with the program," Hawkey said.

Administrators don't want to make the program available to students until all of the problems are solved and students receive "100 percent accurate information," Hawkey said.

So many students have different situations that some could receive false information,

he said.

Currently, students fill out a request for a senior check with Registration and Records.

Hawkey said he did not know when the program will be available to students.

"We are taking it slow because we want it completely correct," he said.

The program is also difficult to implement because it requires a lot of effort by the individual colleges that use the programs, Griesen said.

The University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., uses the program, he said.

Griesen said that when he visited CU last spring, the university was close to removing the program from the campus because it was providing misleading information.

Other colleges have been through these same trial stages, Hawkey said.

Griesen said he believes that the program needs an assistance system to continually make changes and updates.

"There is all kinds of fine tuning in the system," he said.



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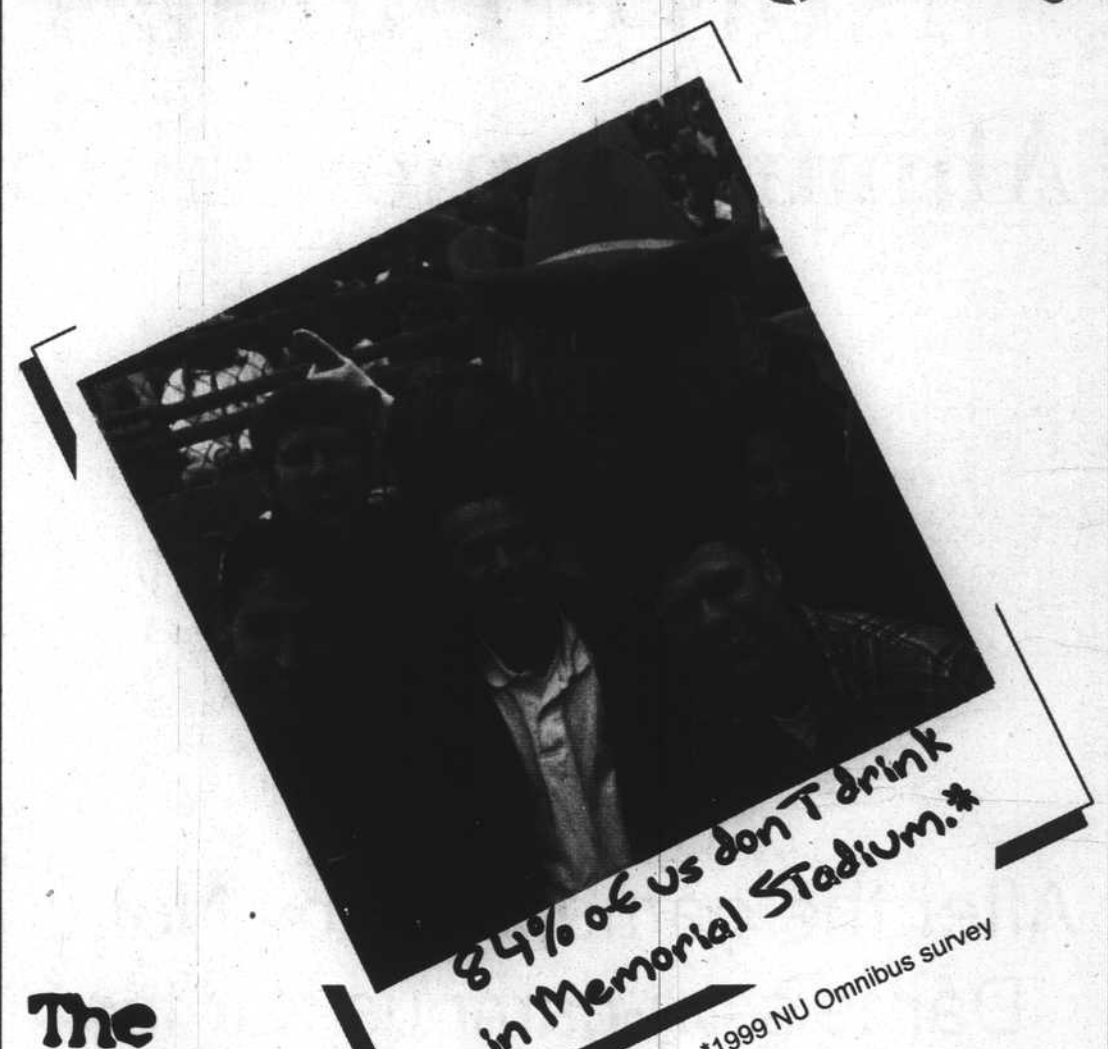
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